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SPECIES

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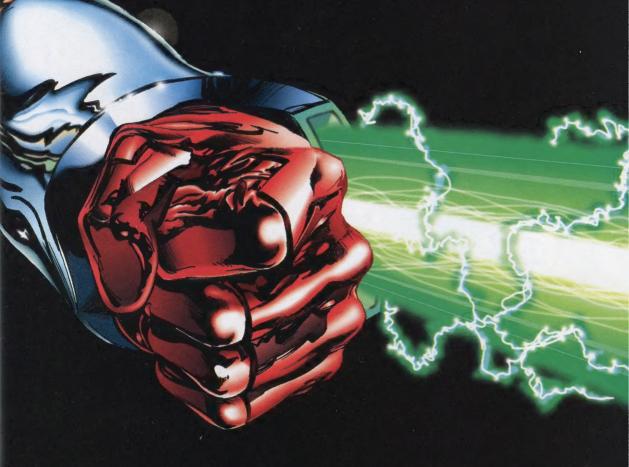












X-O MANOWAR. IN JULY.



51 & 52: EYE FOR AN EYE. X-O RETURNS WITH A VENGEANCE.
BY BART SEARS, ANDY SMITH & RON MARZ.

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WE WANT YOUR OPINION

Specify Number Belo Per week	Per month	□none □1- 11.What if any ty	e <mark>o games do you buy?</mark> 3pe <mark>r year - 14-11 per</mark> yea y pe of video games d e	
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27. How often do you go to the movies?	No purchase necessary. Drawing is open to anyone except
☐ Twice a week ☐ Once a week	employees of Acclaim Comics, Inc and their immediate
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JOnce a year J Never	All Federal, State and local laws apply. Entries become sole
28. How often do you rent movies?	property of Acclaim Comics, Inc and cannot be returned.
☐ Twice a week ☐ Once a week	No cash equivalent or substitute prize is offered. The prize
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☐ Never ☐ Never ☐ Never	restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purpose
20 What types of movies do you watch?	and rules hereof. Taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of
29. What types of movies do you watch?	the prize winners. All entries must be received at contest headquarters no late than July 31, 1995. Winners will be
☐ Sci-Fi ☐ Comedy ☐ Horror ☐ Drama	selected in a random drawing conducted by Acclaim
☐ Action/Adventure	Comics, Inc on or about September 31st. Acclaim Comics,
= Action/ Adventure	Inc is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated
30.How many people read each issue of	entries. To receive a list of prize winners, available after November 31st, send a stamped,self-addressed envelope to
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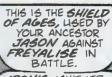












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ICY MANIPULATIONS
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As the bitter cold of the Ice Age draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to the noble denizens of Terisiare, and the kingdom of Kjeldor. If you've enjoyed the adventures of our heroes—or villains—as much as we enjoyed bringing them to you, keep a steadfast watch for the following series:

 Of course, the Carthalion family saga continues in The Shadow Mage and Wayfarer miniseries. (Several of you have pointed out with glee that the origin of arch-villain Ravidel was revealed in issue #2 of this

mag! Kudos!)

• The Planeswalker Kristina teaches Jared about the five colors of magic in Wayfarer.

 Taysir's origin is revealed in Arabian Nights, coming this

August.

 Both Kristina and Taysir will appear in this October's spectacular Homelands prestige format release.

• Finally, Leshrac, Faralyn, Lim-Dûl, and the ever-loving Tevesh Szat (catch his origin in Fallen Empires #1 and #2?), will attempt to conquer Shandalar in this November's two-issue miniseries of the same name.

Now, before we go, we would like to thank all of you for writing in. We received a lot of great letters, but only one of you can win. So without further ado, the entire Armada team proudly presents the winning letter for Ice Age on the World of Magic: The Gathering.

Dear leof,

Kudos on the new Ice Age #1, and on becoming the main man in charge of its "Icy Manipulations" column. Of all the people I know who play Magic—about 50—I am the only one who has read the novels at all, let alone eagerly waiting to discover the potentially rich background of

Dominia! Some people bought the novels, but only to get the cards through the books' coupons. I thoroughly enjoyed the first three novels and am looking forward to all of the rest.

Hopefully, more Magic players will actually READ the comic book series, and discover that in addition to gaming, there is a comic book side to Magic. Also, avid comic book readers may discover the worlds of Dominia! Surely Wizards of the Coast gave the card artists some hint of the kind of fantasy universe Dominia is, so that the card artwork is not only appropriate, but also built around certain common themes.

Anyway, back to Ice Age #1:

Your staff of four artists is off to a terrific start in giving us our first glimpse of Dominaria. Even after five pretty thorough and critical readings, I am still discovering more and more details in all aspects of the artwork. (I am a fiber and fabric artist, so I am already more than normally inquisitive about artistic detail.) I especially liked the artists' rendition of the spells!

The story begins at a natural spot in the Ice Age timeline. What got the travelers off to their journey to begin with. As usual, the book ended too soon. The spells and duels and stuff were all perfectly matched to imaginative game play, as Magic fans would expect it to be.

Wizards of the Coast has announced recently that an Encyclopedia of Magic is in the works. I hope they include a pronunciation guide (like the one you included in issue #2) to help those of us who need it to communicate well with one another.

Shawn Carnes' Seer Analysis column is not only a great concept, but a necessary addition to the comic. Readers new to Magic will get a good handle on what the game's about, and I'll bet it's

entertaining to those who already play. I am assuming that the creatures, spells, etc., in the Ice Age series correspond to the same in the Ice Age expansion deck. The character 1 absolutely assumed would be in the comic book would be the Bone Shaman—as per the card that came with the comic-and yet the closest we seem to have gotten was Oriel the Shaman. Anyway...clearly, Shawn is a true Magic player guru and the inclusion of his column is a must!

Last but not least, the artists, writer, letterers, and editor. The artwork is fabulous, Jeff Gomez's story is clear and well-written, the lettering fun and easily legible. Could you please consider doing a column on a featured artist?

Keep up the great work!

Elizabeth Kipp Duelist Convocation Member #5574 Lawrence, KS

Your wish is our will, Ms. Kipp!

ARTIST PROFILES

JEFF GOMEZ

"It's been the thrill of a lifetime!" laughs Jeff, when asked about his experience writing the Ice Age series. "Less than eighteen months ago, I was buying Ninjak off the rack like any other Valiant fan. Today, I'm heading up Acclaim Comics' Armada line, and writing fantasy epics that are scoring in the Top 20!"

An adventure gamer since high school, Jeff has been running his "Mothnar" and "The City Knights" campaigns since 1979. He published Gateways, a gaming magazine that anticipated the crossover appeal of role-playing games, comic books, and movies. He came to Valiant Comics as an editorial assistant last year, and somehow figured out that a Magic: The Gathering comic

book might be a good idea. His gaming smarts, and passion for Richard Garfield's catchy trading card game, convinced the folks at Wizards of the Coast that they could trust the people at Valiant (by then called Acclaim Comics) to realize their vision. In a few short months, the Armada line was born, and Magic comics could be spotted right next to **Ninjak** on the stands.

"When John Tynes told me that I could actually impact Dominaria history, and turn the Ice Age around in issue #4, I almost freaked!" says Jeff. "It showed me that John had faith in what we're doing here at Armada. WotC really wants us to push the limits of what we can do in an 'official' Magic comic book series, with strong characters and important stories...and the way-cool spell combos are an added bonus!"

Jeff has also written Magic: The Gathering — The Shadow Mage, and co-written Fallen Empires on the World of M:TG with WotC's own Kevin Maples. He'll be writing this summer's Wayfarer series, and you'll feel his editorial influence over the rest of the Magic line in the months to come. This fall, another dream of his may well be fulfilled with the delayed—but still highly anticipated—publication of his creatorowned supernatural-punk miniseries...The City Knights!

RAFAEL KAYANAN

A ten-year veteran in the comics medium, Rafael is best known for his beautiful pencils on Marvel's Conan, The Adventurer. Rafael has also handled Firestorm and, most recently, inking chores on Vertigo's Chiaroscuro, the Life and Times of Leonardo DaVinci. Since joining Acclaim Comics for Ice Age on the World of Magic: The Gathering, Rafael has continued to develop his unique visual style to the worlds of Dominia—and is now considered one of the preeminent artists in the business.

"I've enjoyed introducing Magic: The Gathering players, who haven't necessarily read comics on a regular basis, to the series," says Rafael on his chilly tenure with Armada. "I've loved playing in the Ice Age universe,

and I hope the fans will enjoy comparing the actual cards with the artwork in the books."

RODNEY RAMOS

The somewhat daunting task of capturing the essence of Rafael's pencils with ink has fallen to industry veteran, Rodney Ramos. Rodney's finesse with the brush has made him an Armada Magic staple, and you'll find his work on both the Fallen Empires and Arabian Nights miniseries. "Magic has been the job of a lifetime—I've really had a great time with it." says Rodney. "Just give me MORE!"

ERIC HOPE

"It was great finally working on a project with Rafael Kayananwe both went to the same art school in Florida—and it's been fun working with Rodney, who I've been teamed with on and off over the past two years," says Hope, a Native American resident of Woodstock, New York, who used a combination of Doc Martin watercolor dyes and airbrush for the series. "The series helped me to expand on my style. From this point on, everything I do will conform to the high standard of painting I set for myself with this series."

CHARLES VESS

Renowned fantasy artist Charles Vess lent his hand to grace the Ice Age covers with his renditions of our heroes, villains, and monsters as they interact on the mythical world of Dominaria. Charles' distinct style has been seen in comics, novels, and theater.

Charles has worked for a multitude of companies in his career. His critically acclaimed run on DC's Swamp Thing was preceded by such works as The Horns of Elfland for Archival Press, The Raven Banner for Marvel Comics, as well as the Hugo Award-Winning "Midsummer Night's Dream" issue of Vertigo's Sandman series.

ADAM NIEDZWIECKI

Letterer Adam Niedzwiecki applies his specialized skills to the comics pages, rounding out the Armada creative team. "Working on the Magic comics has been fun and at the same time, very challenging," says Niedzwiecki. "I had to learn a whole new, calligraphic font to give the Magic books a different feel from the traditional hero comics. It's been a great ride so far!" Adam's talents can also be seen in Acclaim's Turok, Dinosaur Hunter.

SHARON MITCHELL

Armada editor Jeff Gomez quickly realized that there was a bit more to Acclaim's proofreader than initially met the eye. Active with the Society for Creative Anachronism, Sharon Mitchell's background proved helpful in giving the language and history of the stories a specific air. "M:TG has combined several of the things I love most in the world," says Sharon, "Fantasy, the pageantry and chivalry of the Middle Ages, and the kind of visual sweep you'd expect to see in a movie, not a comic book. Most of all, it's inspired a number of incredibly strong stories, with compelling characters you can root for, like those we've watched struggle to survive and finally vanguish the Ice Age. I firmly believe these series are destined to become classics."

SPELL UPDATE

A handful of spells listed in our stories, or by Shawn Carnes have been revised or updated by Wizards of the Coast. The following spells are listed by their original names, and then by the names you'll find on the released Ice Age cards:

Ice Age #1: The Kodiak Bear becomes the Balduvian Bear; the Bow of the Nordic Warrior becomes the Fyndhorn Bow; Shield of the Ice Prince becomes Shield of the Ages; and Staff of the Ice Lords becomes Staff of the Ages.

Ice Age #2: Katabatic Winds becomes Freyalise's Winds.

Ice Age #3: Terror becomes Dark Banishing; and Covenant of Fire becomes Fire Covenant.

At press time, the M:TG Ice Age expansion finally been released!

Seer Analysis By Shawn F. Carnes

Hello once again, planeswalkers! This time around we'll be looking into Ice Age #4, and what an Ice Age it's turning out to be! The story puts some final resolution to some major elements that have been building since the very first issue. Also, two mega-spells have been cast (one by Tevesh Szat, and the other by Freyalise), and although it's doubtful anyone will be using them in ordinary Magic: The Gathering game play, the spells sure are worth examining! So, without further delay, let's get to the action!

All the way back on the splash page, Tevesh Szat summons a Priest of Yawgmoth. In game terms, the Priest is a creature with the ability to turn artifacts into Black mana. Szat wants the Priest to consecrate an enormous cache of artifacts and relics to Phyrexia (a nasty place—check out the upcoming Antiquities War miniseries for more info). The trade-off, again in game terms, is the backlash of Black mana that Szat receives.

In turn, Szat intends to pump the mana into the surrounding glaciers and tundra—this being artistic license for the equivalent of an Iceberg card. In the Ice Age expansion, Iceberg is an enchantment which costs two Blue mana and X, where X is any number of mana you choose. X also represents the number of counters on your Iceberg card, each representing one colorless mana.

In essence, Tevesh Szat (who, we've seen, is handy with both Black and Blue magic), is attempting to create a tremendous reservoir of mana! As we soon discover, this will force the icebergs, glaciers and other frozen waste around Soldev to grow and grow, throwing the realm into a perpetual Ice Age, and killing everyone off, once and for all!

To counter this, Freyalise is doing two things, one of which is creating her own mega-spell. Taking Kristina's advice, and combining spells in a unique way, Freyalise starts off by casting several Wild Growth spells on her surrounding Forests, so that each time they are tapped, they will produce an extra green mana per Wild Growth. With this in place, an Ice Cauldron is brought into the scheme of things. The Ice Cauldron card allows spells to be stored under it, to be summarily cast as fast effects—very handy for any sorceries you might have. Freyalise is up to something very big

The second part of her plan involves Jaeuhl Carthalion (yes... another Carthalion!), a knight who has fallen out of favor with the powers that be. Jaeuhl is to face Tevesh Szat head-on, while Freyalise completes her megaspell! The nature goddess secures some interesting items for Jaeuhl to use—the Nova Pentacle (which we saw in issue #2), the Staff of Ages, an artifact which allows creatures with landwalking ability to be blocked as if they didn't have it (from issue #1), the Celestial Sword, an artifact which gives a creature +3/+3 and buries it at the end of the turn (briefly glimpsed in issue #1). Jaeuhl must also locate the Amulet of Quoz, an artifact which forces either you or your opponent to ante another card-or lose the game. (It depends on a coin toss.) With these items, Jaeuhl (pronounced Jay-ull, not Jay-oool as Szat would have us think) at least stands a fighting chance.

While Jaeuhl confronts Tevesh Szat, Freyalise begins to weave her "Worldspell" by using a great trick that can be duplicated in the game! Freyalise makes use of the Ley Druid Kaysa by casting Paralyze on her. In the game, you can only untap a Paralyzed creature by spending four mana during the upkeep phase. Now, imagine at least four Wild Growths played on a Forest. During "upkeep," tapping the Forest gains five Green mana with the four Wild Growths on it. Now, the Ley Druid is tapped after Paralyze, but it can untap using four of the Green mana (any color

would work). When untapped, it can tap to use its special ability of untapping a land—a land just like the one with the Wild Growths on it. As a result, you are back where you started, with an extra Green mana in your pool. You can repeat the process forever, generating millions of Green mana!

This is how Freyalise can cast the huge Stream of Life that brings the world out of the Ice Age. The fact that the Stream of Life is coming from the Ice Cauldron only makes it that much quicker-quick enough to beat Tevesh Szat to the punch.

There's a lot of cool stuff happening when Jaeuhl confronts Tevesh Szat, but the one thing I want to focus on is the use of the Amulet of Quoz. In the comic, he uses it to banish Tevesh Szat; you can do the same if you ever play a game for ante! (When you play for ante, you are essentially betting your opponent a card, chosen at random, that you'll win the game.) It can be risky to play for ante, but if you are almost sure of winning, you can make use of the Amulet of Quoz to increase your rewards. The Amulet forces an opponent to ante up a second card, or quit the game...so long as the coin toss comes up in your favor.

Check these combos out! Winning tricks like these, combined with a thrilling storyline, with a satisfying ending (think Kaysa and Jaeuhl will hit it off? Hmmm!), is what Magic: The Gathering comics seem to be doing best!

Until next time, may the Ice Age never freeze you out.

Editor's Note: A free signed copy of Ice Age on the World of Magic: The Gathering #4 to the Erneeyed reader who can give us a complete list of the spells used in between duel laeuhl Carthalion and Tevesh Szat! Your letters about Ice Age will be printed in Antiquities War on the World of Magic: The Gathering #1, coming this July! See you there!

COMING IN JULY

Magic: The Gathering Special: The Nightmare #1

Enter the mysterious world of the dark steed of the swamps in this exciting oneshot special, based on one of the most rare and powerful creatures in Magic: The Gathering. Nightmares are supernatural horses occasionally bonded to wizards of Black mana. They streak angrily across the sky, leaving trails of fire in their wake.

Hilary Bader, best known for her exciting and passionate episodes of Star Trek: Deep Space 9 and Star Trek: Voyager, writes this darkly enchanting story, ably assisted by Valiant artists Anthony Castrillo and Anibal Rodriguez. Featuring a spectacular new painted cover by Nightmare creator Melissa Benson!

Antiquities War on the World of Magic: The Gathering #1

The greatest, most spectacular magical war in the history of Dominaria starts here! Based on events depicted in the Antiquities expansion of the Magic: The Gathering, we're introduced to Urza and Mishra, brothers destined for tragedy!

In this issue, we learn the story of the Mightstone and the Weakstone...and the origin of an enmity so sweeping that millions of lives were lost, and magicalmechanical monstrosities were brought forth from the fires of hatred during a war that lasted decades! Writer Jerry Prosser (Animal Man, Skin Graft, Comics Greatest World) lends this new series a sophisticated air, and Paul Smith makes his Armada debut. Featuring a painted cover by George Pratt.

Magic: The Gathering Wayfarer #1

On the world of Dominaria, a towering quest begins! Join the teenaged Shadow Mage Jared Carthalion as he explores the dangerous new land of Corondor. His ultimate goal-to unlock the secrets of magic, and finally become a true Planeswalker.

stalks the plains looking for trouble -Kristina, who we met in Ice Age #3, and who will appear in this fall's Homelands fully painted, prestige format comic. becomes a series regular. Featuring a fully painted chapter revealing the secrets of White magic by Dennis Calero, and a painted cover by renowned fantasy illustrator Michael Kaluta.





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This issue, haunted by the revelation

that his whole life was a lie, Jared and a legendary D'Avenant Archer is just the one to give it to him! Also,

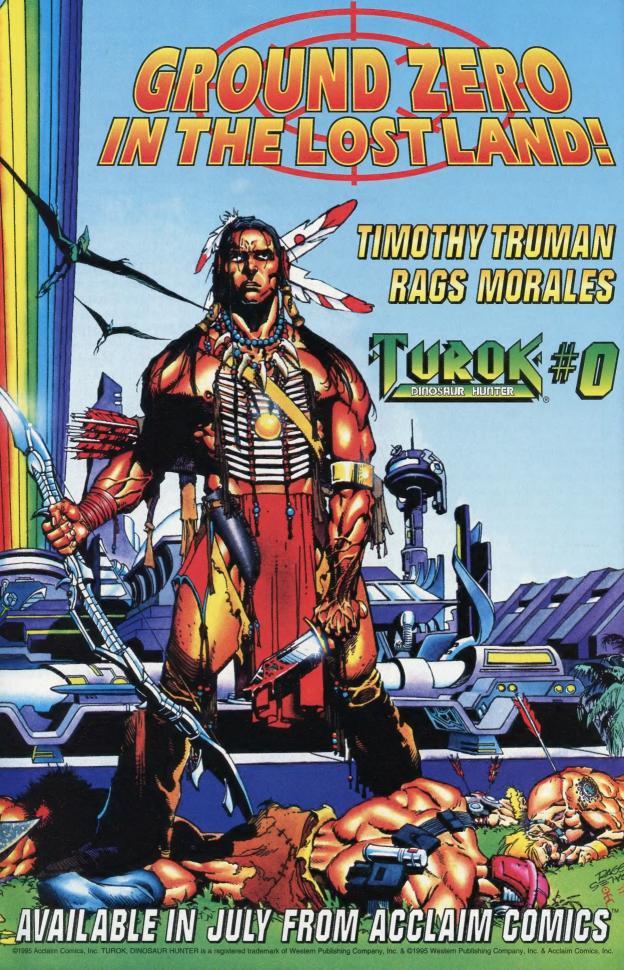


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-0/-1	-0/-1	-0/-1	+1/+1	+1/+1
-0/-1	-0/-1	-0/-1	+1/+1	+1/+1

-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-1	-1/-1
-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-1	-1/-1
-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-1	-1/-1
-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-0	-1/-1	-1/-1

LIFE



Tokens and counters for use with Magic, The Gathering



1-Life Illus. by Amy Weber / 5-Life Illus. by Christopher Rush